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NIAGARA COLLEGE
of Applied Arts and Technology
WELLAND CAMPUS
LEARNING
RESOURCE CENTR

Niagara News

Vol. 23, No. 9 Published by the Journalism-Print Program, Niagara College, Welland, Ont. Friday, Jan. 29, 1993 12 pages

Plan causes student anger

BY TROY CLARKE
Staff Writer

Emotions were high Tuesday when students faced college administrators about the proposed restructuring of the school year.

It was standing room only as David Schleich, vice-president academic and Carol Boettcher, vice-president student life and human resources, fielded a barrage of questions and concerns from angry students facing the prospect of lost job opportunities and increased living costs which they feel will accompany restructuring.

The plan proposes the school year be lengthened to 36-weeks from 31-weeks, each term running 18-weeks and ending at the end of May rather than April.

Schleich said President John Saso is expected to make his decision about restructuring Feb. 22.

Many college students are fearful students and graduates from other colleges, specifically Mohawk College in Hamilton which recently rejected a similar proposal to lengthen the school year, will have first crack at summer and full-time employment.

"We're giving them (Mohawk) eight more weeks to look for a full-time job, that's what I'm concerned about," said Stuart McDonald, a first- year Journalism Print program student.

"I can tell you one thing for sure, if we have this 36-week system I will not be coming back here next year."

Schleich said he was also concerned about Niagara students losing job opportunities.

"Don't think for one minute that's not on my mind," he told students.

But several students laughed, whistled and jeered throughout the session as Schleich explained the college's position.

Provincial government funding cuts teemed with increasing enrol-

Continued on page 3.

Warm it up girls!

Fit is it! Niagara College students take advantage of exercise class to shake it up. Aerobics are offered every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. in the Welland campus gym. The class is taught by a professional instructor and welcomes new members.
Photo by Duncan Warrener

SAC vote earlier in 1993

New SAC to 'shadow' current council

By TROY CLARKE
Staff Writer

In order to make transition smoother, the Student Administrative Council will hold its elections two weeks earlier this year. SAC will also be involving satellite campuses to a greater extent in the elections.

"We're going to have to move a little bit earlier this year," said Lou DiMattio, SAC liaison.

DiMattio said she would like the new SAC to spend at least two weeks "shadowing" the current council before the school year ends.

DiMattio said SAC could share some of its successes and pitfalls with the incoming council, adding an exchange of that type of information would be beneficial.

No exact dates have been prepared yet, but DiMattio said nominations forms will be available in the first week of March, and elections will be held late March or early April.

Meanwhile, DiMattio would like to see satellite campuses more involved in the process.

"Years ago we actual took a road-show set up with each satellite government, when the candidates could go down and give their platform speeches," DiMattio said.

Voting at satellite campuses has always been poor, but giving those students a chance to see who they are voting for might improve the voting somewhat, said Dimattio, adding she thinks it is only fair those campuses hear the candidates.

"It takes a little doing because there are some candidates who don't have transportation and with conflicting schedules they can't do it, but I hope to give it an honest effort and get down to the other campuses."

Last year seven per cent of full-time students voted in SAC elections.

Compensation board changes placement rules

By DARREN ESAU
Staff Writer

A decision by Niagara Regional council on a proposed policy change that could affect the placement of students in the workforce is being held off until at least Feb. 4.

Council met Jan. 21 to discuss a proposal made by the Ontario Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) which would make individual employers responsible for any injury which might occur to a college or university student during field placement.

Up to now, the WCB has been responsible for covering the costs for injured students.

Carol Boettcher, the college's vice-president of student life and human resources, told council the practical experience the students gain at field placement is at risk because of this proposal.

"We are facing a dilemma, and it's not of our making," she said, adding that thousands of students in placement at institutions like hospitals, the Region and government ministries could lose on-the-job experience if some kind of insurance is not found.

Bob Baddeley, the college's director of allied health studies, said over the years the track record for safety by Niagara College students has been exceptional.

"There have been no major accidents for students this year," said Baddeley, adding the WCB introduced these changes without any consultation with the colleges and universities.

Regional Councillor Stella Ziff of Fort Erie echoed Baddeley's claim. "We only found out about these changes from a story in the paper," she said, referring to an article in the Nov. 26 edition of the *St. Catharines Standard* where it was reported that the St. Catharines General Hospital may eliminate student nurses and technicians if the WCB goes ahead with this plan.

Niagara Falls Mayor Wayne Thomson also backed the college's position by saying these changes would hurt those who benefit from the students' work as well as the students themselves.

Continued on page 12.

Undercover cop seeks prostitute

By SAMANTHA MAGILL
Staff Writer

The crackdown on prostitution in Niagara Falls, Ont. rests with the special investigations unit of the Niagara Regional Police Force.

The unit, made up of a sergeant and three constables, investigates prostitutes, customers, and pimps, in addition to other illegal activities.

"Prostitution is the oldest profession going," said Constable Scott Maclean of the unit. "It's a difficult problem to get rid of."

The unit collects data on offenders by executing surveillance and undercover work. Files are formed from the data that may lead the unit to further information.

Surveillance and undercover work is carried out at the "stroll or track" areas where the prostitutes work. A constable will approach a prostitute, previously identified by surveillance, as a potential customer.

A generalized conversation between the prostitute and undercover constable begins with the officer asking in slang terms if she is busy, inferring he may want her services. The prostitute usually asks if he is a police officer and then proceeds to question the officer to ascertain if he is a customer.

"It's a game," said Maclean. "We simulate into a role to get what's desired which is evidence. Eight out of 10 prostitutes ask you to expose yourself or touch them. They think that if you're reluctant, you may be a cop." One of Maclean's most memorable responses from a prostitute was, "show me what God gave you that He didn't give me."

Once the prostitute is satisfied with the "cop's" credibility as a customer, the conversation turns from sex to money. Maclean says prices for different sex acts can range from $50 for "oral sex" to $100 for intercourse and $150 for both. Prostitutes asked to service a customer all night may charge over $300.

"The more bizarre the act, the more money they charge," said Maclean, adding, "some girls will not perform bizarre acts, they only stay within the norm."

"When the enforcement steps up in an area, the girls move on,"said Maclean. "Or else they move to where the money is."

Having sex without a condom is called French and requires more money because of the risk factor, said Maclean.

Some girls are managed by a "dominating" pimp. The pimps manipulate the girls into believing they are their friend and will protect them from trouble. Prostitutes are controlled by the pimps through drugs, physical and mental abuse.

"When someone is holding your cocaine, you'll do anything to get it when you're an addict," said Maclean. "Most of these girls come from broken homes where sexual abuse probably occurred. Their self-esteem is so low and they usually are drug or alcohol addicts."

Male prostitutes frequent a regular "track" in Niagara Falls. Many male prostitutes consent to performing sex acts for free if they think the customer is undercover, which makes it difficult to charge them with communicating to commit prostitution, said Maclean.

A woman charged and convicted with communication to commit prostitution can serve up to 60 days in jail and pay a $400 fine.

Drug Awareness awards prizes

By JENNIFER HERR
Staff Writer

Winners were chosen in early January for the Drug Awareness Week contests held last November.

Prizes were donated by numerous sponsors. Draw prize winners received baseball caps, donated by Niagara College and Rotary (St. Catharines-Lakeshore) as well as Note Totes, compliments of Hilroy Books.

The logo contest was won by Aiden Whitty, a second-year Visual and Creative Arts-Design program student. Various sponsors supplied a Niagara College jacket and hat, dinner for two at the Hospitality and Tourism Centre, and a Note Tote.

First prize honors in the essay contest went to Phil Lambie, a first-year Business Administration program student. His prizes included computer software.

Other essay contest winners were: Darryl Bardsley, Stuart Krick, Justin Wood, Peter Kozela, Troy Clarke, Kim Walter, and Jennifer Barr.

At the Hospitality and Tourism Centre, students were challenged to create a new non-alcoholic beverage. Winners in that contest were Tara Juranics, Roy Kiers, and Jeff McColl.

Drug Awareness Week took place Nov. 16-20.

Crime Stoppers pursue arsonist

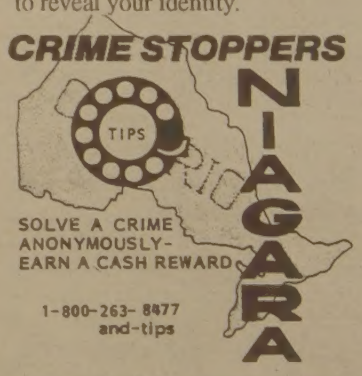
Crime Stoppers and Regional Police investigators are looking for information to help solve a string of arsons in the Garden City.

Since Oct. 9, 1992, police and fire officials have been called out to investigate 20 suspicious fires. All the incidents have occurred in the Queenston Street, St. Paul Street and St. Paul West areas of St. Catharines. To date, officials estimate that approximately $250,000 in damages have been caused by these fires.

The incidents have all occurred during the late night, early morning hours and almost all the buildings were vacant at the time of the blaze.

Arson is a very serious criminal offence and each year causes millions of dollars in property damage and claims dozens of lives throughout North America. Fortunately, no one has been injured as a result of these recent local occurrences.

If you have information regarding these arsons or any other crime, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-263-8477, that's 1-800-AND-TIPS to be eligible for a cash award up to $1,000. In all cases you won't have to reveal your identity.



Intruder breaks into college office

By SHERI GOODMAN
Staff Writer

Money was stolen from a staff member's office Jan. 20 at the Welland campus. It wasn't a lot of money, but enough that it was noticed missing, said Linda Maidens, the college's building operations supervisor.

She reminds staff and students to take extra precautions.

"This is a very open building and there's a lot of people wandering around here and not everybody is supposed to be here I'm sure," she said.

Maidens suggests locking office doors, locking purses in desks and not carrying valuables to school.

"Being as open as we are, it's pretty hard to police the public coming in and out," she said.

Kiss the Flame

Drug trade enforces tougher laws

By Heather Hodgson
Law and Security Administration Program
Special to Niagara News

This is the third and final student essay in the Kiss the Flame essay series.

BY ROGER STROOP

As the fallout of addiction and tragedy came crashing down from the drug culture of the 1960s and 1970s, authorities decided that they must address the drug problem seriously so that future generations would not have to get caught up in the horrors of substance abuse. To meet this goal, legislatures across North America passed tough new laws to seek out and punish the people who fuel the destructive lifestyles of drug addicts; the drug producers and sellers. Those laws covered all drugs equally, from heroin to so called "recreational drugs" such as marijuana. Also, campaigns in the media urged young people not to get involved with drugs, to "Just Say No." In the more than decade-long period since these efforts started, have they been effective in curbing narcotics abuse in North America? The answer, unfortunately, is no. These measures have failed to significantly decrease the presence of drugs in our society, and have sometimes been overly harsh and too dependent on scare tactics.

Many of the major kingpins in the narcotics industry are from outside North America, so it is very difficult for authorities from these shores to get at them. Those who are on this continent have made significant amounts of money from the drug trade, and can thus afford advanced security for their operations and lawyers with the skills to get them acquitted when and if they are charged with an offence. Therefore, a very small percentage of the drugs destined to hit the streets fails to do so. Usually, the people who get caught and convicted are the people who sell drugs directly to users. These people are usually not involved in the process of making or importing the drugs. Essentially, these are salespeople trying to make money by finding people to buy their product. Unfortunately, many laws in many jurisdictions treat these people just as they would producers or smugglers. For example, a law in Michigan states that anyone caught possessing a certain amount of drugs (an amount that is around that of an average sale by a dealer to a buyer) and convicted of that crime must receive a life sentence. Judges are given no option for leniency in any case. Thus, several 18- and 19-year-olds are currently serving life sentences for small drug deals while the kingpins remain free and safe in the knowledge that there will be more young people to take the place of the ones in jail, and the drug trade continues as usual.

Not only does the Michigan law not differentiate between small and large drug figures, it does not differentiate between drugs. Because of this, the hemp plant is illegal. This plant has been used in the past to make useful items such as paper, and some scientists believe that it might be developed into an alternative source of fuel. It is also the plant that marijuana comes from, and is therefore considered "evil" in North American society. Pro-marijuana groups claim they can prove that marijuana does not have the destructive and addictive properties that crack and heroin do, but society will not allow these views to be heard. These views may or may not have merit, but in a society that takes pride in allowing freedom of speech, they should not be stifled.

Just as the legislation efforts have drawbacks, so do the educational and preventive measure. While the slogan, "Just Say No," is effective for younger children, adolescents simply look at it as another example of how adults tell them how to live their lives. Other, more explicit commercials, such as the "This is your brain on drugs," ad with the fried egg, or the one where a teenage boy is led down a hallway to an electric chair and an announcer says, essentially, that this is what "smoking pot" is like, are even less effective. People in general, not just young people, often take scare tactics as dares. Look what happened when Brian Mulroney used similar tactics to try and sell the Charlottetown agreement. This sort of strategy very rarely accomplishes its goals.

The efforts made to curb drug use in the past several years haven't really changed anything. Would better education, more money for law enforcement, stiffer penalties, or even legalization of certain drugs be more effective? It's difficult to say. What is certain is that if the presence of drugs in society is going to be reduced to any substantial degree, authorities must find a new direction.

Accessibilty upgrade

By DARIUS SOKAL
Staff Writer

Niagara College will receive over $100,000 through the jobsOntarioCapital for campus renovations.

Colleges and Universities Minister Richard Allen recently announced that Ontario postsecondary institutions will receive an additional $30.6 million over the next two years to improve facilities.

The funds will be divided on a need basis among colleges and universities.

The college will use the allocated $108,600 to improve its accessibility for the physically challenged and address concerns over health and safety.

Gilles Prescott, the college's special needs co-ordinator, said he is "looking forward to using the money to make the school more accessible for disabled students."

The money will be used for construction of ramps for the physically challenged in the parking lot immediately north of Hennepin Hall, updating and repairing the college's air conditioning system and the safe removal of chemicals, which have accumulated and been stored by the college for the past 25 years, said Hans van der Slagt, vice-president, administration.

"This type of commitment from the government certainly dictates the direction Niagara College is moving — it's positive in that we want out students working in a comfortable, healthy environment," he added.

To date, more than $93.5 million has been assigned with the co-operation of jobsOntarioCapital to colleges and universities for facility renovations.

Foyer Richelieu, on Tanguay Avenue in Welland, is the site of the new Soins Infirmiers Auxiliaires (Nursing Assistant) program.

Photo by Jennifer Herr

Bilingual students remerci

By JENNIFER HERR
Staff Writer

They could use more windows.

Oh, and a March Break would be nice too.

But other than that, the students in Niagara College's new Soins Infirmiers Auxiliaires (Nursing Assistant) program at the Foyer Richelieu on Tanguay Avenue in Welland are pleased with the way the new course is progressing.

"As a post-secondary program, (the Nursing Assistant Program) it is a very popular one," says Doris Evans, co-ordinator of the program. "It's the position of the future in hospitals."

The Foyer Richelieu, a nursing home for the francophone elderly, is prime location for the program because it allows the students to train in a "francophone milieu," says Evans. It would, however, be better if the residents could be more a part of the program, she said.

The 16 students enroled in the program joined for a number of reasons. Asked whether they would have joined the English stream of the program had French Language Services not introduced the francophone equivalent, there is a vehement chorus of "no".

"I did all of my schooling in French, and I wanted to continue to do so," says student Huguette Romano. Further, there was a long waiting list for the English side of the course, said student Daniel Desmarais.

Evans said the students, after the 38-week term, will have little trouble gaining employment, not only in the Niagara Region, but in the rest of Canada and the United States. "It's a benefit that we're bilingual," says Michlene Bourque. The students also say hospitals in Northern Ontario are interested in hiring bilingual nurses and nursing assistants.

The course is "extremely intense and very condensed," says student Doris Goertzen. The term is longer than most at the college at 38 weeks, and does not include a March Break. Included in the course is a practical section. The students are each assigned a patient in the Woolcott Wing of Welland County General Hospital, and are responsible for the care of that patient. "It can be pretty nerve-racking," says student Carolle Charette.

The students are generally very happy with the program. Even though this is the first run of the course, they feel it is well organized. "There's a lot of one-on-one work. You get to know the teachers well," says Desmarais.

The course started on Jan. 4 and will operate until September for the first class of students.

Employee skills development planting seed: Stokes Seeds

By DARIUS SOKAL
Staff Writer

We have a success story!

Niagara College's Ontario Skills Development Office (OSDO), in partnership with the Ministry of Skills Development, assists regional businesses to plan and co-ordinate employee training.

Stokes Seeds is one of those businesses.

The St. Catharines-based company provides flower, herb and vegetable seeds for home and commercial gardens.

Stokes Seeds officials discovered customers were satisfied with the quality of the product, but problems with order errors and late deliveries were brought to their attention.

"The seasonal nature of the business and the annual requirement to train a number of new employees placed a tremendous amount of stress on our supervisors. In the past, training lacked consistency, both in content and in quality," said vice-president Wayne Gale.

Gale contacted the OSDO, part of the college's Ventures Division, to assist him in solving the company's dilemma.

OSDO consultants, with the participation of employees, reviewed Stoke Seeds' job organization and design, and developed an instructor's handbook to ensure proper, consistent, quality training.

Sixty new employees were trained according to the guidelines of the co-developed handbook.

The results of the training were an increase in productivity and customer satisfaction while reducing order delivery time and employee stress.

"The investment has provided at least a five-fold return by increasing productivity, service quality and customer satisfaction," said Gale.

The OSDO and Stokes Seeds are joining forces to develop plans for other possible areas of improvement which would contribute to the successful growth and prosperity of the firm.

Job hunting books available

Books to prepare you for summer job hunting are available through Capricorn Business Services Inc. of West Hill, Ont.

Book topics include: Overseas Summer Jobs 1993, 1993 Internships USA, Travellers Survival Kit — Europe, and Working in Ski Resorts — Europe.

Book prices range from $14.95 to $37.95.

Books are obtainable by mail. If you would like to receive a review copy of any book, write to Capricorn Business Services Inc., 28 Clearlake Ave., West Hill, Ont. M1C 4L6.

Students unhappy with proposed 36-week school year

Continued from p.1.

ment is making operation of the college increasingly difficult, Schleich said.

Graphs were shown explaining that the amount of funding given to the college for each student has dropped to $3,527 in 1993, from $4,164 in 1981.

Schleich said the figures are adjusted for inflation, however, operation costs have increased by dozens of percentage points over the last 10 years.

"We don't have the same kind of money as we had in the past," he said.

Schleich told students they had some "very valid" opinions in their arguments.

However, many of the students were adamant in their position.

One of many who brought the crowd to cheers was Jennifer Sheridan, a first-year Journalism Print student.

"When you represent a group of people and the majority disagrees with something, you should represent the majority," she said.

"We're all saying no, so you go and tell them no, we don't want it," Sheridan said.

Many students echoed Sheridan's demand the plan be dumped.

Mike Kanters, a computer technology student, was not convinced restructuring is the best route.

Kanters said he will return to Niagara if the restructuring is phased in instead of implemented immediately.

Several hours after the session, in a later interview, Schleich called the session a "very productive, very special, very important, consultation."

He said students raised some important issues and he is "proud of the way" they faced them, adding their concerns are his foremost priority.

"Students must never think we are not listening to them, we listen very carefully," he said.

Dale Deloughery, Niagara College Student Administrative Council president, was in favor of restructuring, however he has since changed his mind.

Jeff Sindall, Mohawk College Student Representative's Council president, said his student body was instrumental in defeating Mohawk's proposed restructuring plan.

"During the first meeting students openly expressed their anger toward the vice-president academic and also expressed their anger at us," Sindall said, adding, "The SRC was under a lot of pressure to represent its students well on that point."

Meanwhile, Schleich said he will be meeting with Deloughery soon for further discussions.

CANCER INFORMATION SERVICE

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1-800-263-6718

Special needs workshops

By ROGER STROOP
Staff Writer

The Special Needs Office is conducting six study skills workshops for its students.

The workshops are being held every Thursday afternoon in Room ME102 dealing with various study concerns of special needs students, says Jackie Calabretta, special needs counsellor, who is leading the sessions.

The first two one-hour sessions, held Jan. 21 and Jan. 28, dealt with self-assessment and time management, she said.

The remaining four workshops will consist of note taking, note reviewing, classroom skills as well as an open session for other student concerns.

The sessions begin with a brief introduction from Calabretta, followed by activities and a group discussion.

Calabretta said the best thing about the workshop format is the way it allows students to interact and teach each other.

"Students can learn quite nicely from each other," she said, stressing the need for them to draw on each other for encouragement and help.

Only three students attended the first workshop, which Calabretta attributes to lack of advertising and conflicting classes of students.

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

Gov't ploy may end recession

The recession is over! The recession is over!

So says Statistics Canada, the nation's leading number-crunching bureau, in a report released last week.

With such great news, one would expect immediate recovery, a boom in the job market, and a period of economic growth that has generally followed recessionary periods.

Instead, the economic soothsayers decided the recovery of just over one-quarter of jobs lost during the almost three-year decline points directly to the end of our monetary woes. Certainly there has been improvement, but isn't such optimism somewhat premature?

Or is this a well-orchestrated ploy by the Canadian government to fool average citizens into spending money, an action that would, by the increased circulation of currency, end, in actuality, the recession. It's obvious that no other manner of recovery initiated by our present government, or for that matter, the opposition, has come to any positive conclusion. Perhaps this is the final Hail Mary shot at terminating what has been moving toward a full-blown economic depression for quite some time.

Manipulation is almost inevitably a negative means. But if the end is the resolution of this country's economic tribulation, maybe the means are justified.

Jennifer Herr

NDP's plan a waste of time

The New Democratic Ontario government has introduced new smoking legislation intended to reduce Ontario's use of tobacco products.

Besides being a waste of time and money, the legislation attempts to govern our personal choice of legal products. The provincial government is attempting to act as a parent or watchdog over Ontario's citizens.

The proposed legislation raises the legal age for purchasing tobacco products to 19 from 18, outlaws the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies, requires adult supervision at all vending machines and requires police officers to hand out tickets to law offending retailers.

The goal of the law is to reduce tobacco use by 50 per cent by the year 2000. The fact government is attempting to control product demand should pose a threat to anyone supportive of a market economy.

The plan to have police give out tickets to retailers is truly ridiculous, but not as ridiculous as having adult supervision at cigarette vending machines. We don't want our police force spending their time staking out convenience stores when they could be out arresting thieves and drunken drivers. By having adults supervise vending machines, you defeat the purpose of the vending machine. It would be better to just have the adults sell the cigarettes. This must be part of the NDP job creation program.

Many pharmacies rely on tobacco products to draw customers into their stores. By introducing this legislation the NDP government will force the closure of many small businesses throughout the province.

There are many other places to buy cigarettes so the new law merely acts as an inconvenience for the adult smoking community. Is the government prepared to sacrifice our free economy for this inconvenience?

People should be concerned if the provincial government can get away with this what personal choice will they try to legislate next?

Rick Kinzel

LASA students' integrity questioned

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter in response to a letter written by Sue Harvey in the Jan. 15 edition of the Niagara News. Taking into consideration that I agree with Harvey's right to express her opinion, I am also of the belief that her statements require a rebuttal.

In her letter Harvey outlined several issues pertaining to an accident that took place Dec. 4, 1992 on the Welland campus. Harvey suggested that she, "wanted to comment on a recent incident involving some Law and Security Administration students." My concern with this statement is Harvey's use of the word "some". The 1990 edition of Webster's Dictionary defines the word "some" as follows: some, an indefinite part, quantity, or number. The use of the word some in this context is misleading to the reader in that it allows for speculation. The reality of the situation is that three first-year law and security students were involved in the accident. Nowhere in Harvey's letter does it mention this factual information. Harvey's infraction can be seen to generalize and stereotype all LASA students as immature.

I also took exception to another statement made by Harvey pertaining to her own expectations with respect to the act of placing a wrecked automobile on campus. Harvey stated that, "Apparently, the wrecked car was not taken as seriously as I had expected". For Harvey to place her own expectations on the college community is, firstly, very inappropriate, and secondly, not her responsibility as an elected Student Administrative Council official. Her personal opinion should be distanced from the elected office she holds. As she signed her letter using her official SAC title, do her statements then reflect the views of the other officers of the Student's Administrative Council? As a former vice-president of SAC, I know there are other alternatives to trying to curb drinking and driving. A nonalcoholic pub is an example of an event that limits the chances of injury to members of the college community. In her position, Harvey must attempt to foresee problems such as the one that arose with the car incident, and not point fingers and suggest that her expectations were not met.

It is important to note this letter is not intended to defend the three LASA students involved in the above mentioned incident. I believe Harvey and I are in agreement that their actions were inappropriate. The persons that I do wish to defend are the other 385 LASA students that have had the door of speculation left wide open on them. Harvey failed to point out that LASA students have effectively worked as ambassadors to the corporate and private sectors of the Niagara Region. Ambassadors that have won rave reviews for providing such services as security advisers to the 1992 Event in the Tent, an event that serviced 10,000 people over the course of two nights without one major problem. Ambassadors that provided a huge role in this year's college food drive, and Car Walk program to name but a few. The LASA program graduates many successful individuals, individuals that go out to effectively service the community.

The last statement of Harvey's letter read, "Correct me if I'm wrong, but isn't the program called *Law and Security? From which side* of the law do you plan on graduating?" This personal attack on the LASA program is unjustified and misleading. Harvey's letter is lacking in factual information and serves very little purpose other than to say an event that she planned did not meet with her expectations.

In closing I pose the question how much of the blame does Harvey accept for planning the event? This wrecked car display has been used many times before and experienced many similar problems. Maybe it is time that an alternative display is created. I believe Harvey owes "some" of the LASA students an apology. To reaffirm the concern over Harvey's statements, please find enclosed approximately 100 letters written to Harvey from LASA students.

David J. Rapelje
LASA '87

'Food for Friends' campaign successful

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the students and staff who organized the "Food for Friends" campaign, we thank all those who supported and contributed to the successful food bank collection drive.

Those who contributed are entitled to share fully in the good feelings that result from helping "friends" in temporary need of assistance.

Our friends who are in need of the food bank service are comforted knowing that the people at Niagara care enough to become directly involved in sharing with others from their own resources.

We should all admire the great group of students who worked so unselfishly in organizing the campaign. They demonstrated the true spirit of Niagara. It was a great pleasure to be associated with them in this venture. I am sure we will all see and hear from them again as they assume their leadership roles in the wider community.

Larry Cote
Brigitte Chiki
Faculty Advisers
Food for Friends '92

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Editor: Jennifer Herr
Associate Editor:
Rick Kinzel

Larry Taylor, Publisher
Phyllis Barnatt, Managing Editor
Gary Erb, Associate Managing Editor
Eileen Muir, Advertising Manager
Roy Timm, Photography Consultant

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P.O. Box 1005, Woodlawn Road, Ontario L3B 5S2. Phone (416) 735-2211/ 688-1380/ 384-9760/ 382-2383/ FAX (416) 735-5365.

Niagara student mentors potential dropouts

Wants to 'open doors of opportunity'

By STUART KRICK
Staff Writer

The Onside Mentor program is an attempt to fight the silent crisis in schools today by hooking potential drop-outs with a mentor, said Carl Jones, 35, a mentor and student of Niagara College.

Between 5,000 and 7,500 people in the Niagara Region will quit school at 16 years old, Jones said. By the year 2000, there will be between 40,000 and 60,000 drop-outs in this region under the age of 26.

"Students need to know what it's like in the world. They need to know that success is not a given, and that school is very important to their future," he said.

The Mentor program is a way of helping students, he said.

He gave an example of a student he mentored last year.

The student was from Niagara Falls, Ont. The student's highest average in any class was 53 per cent, and he wouldn't have finished his school-year without help, Jones said.

"I picked him up once a week. We would have lunch and talk. I gave him an opportunity to talk; to have an empathetic observer. I was not there to judge.

"I helped him consider avenues. To see things in a different way than he was seeing them at the time."

Jones said he saw his student through Grade 10 with a 73 per cent average. He said it made his student feel great.

"He could now say: 'I can do this. I see completion instead of failure,' " Jones said.

"He was a bright kid. He just had incredible peer pressure and no job. I let him see more of the world."

Jones said his student complained of the vice-principle at the school he was attending. Jones said he helped the student understand it was his own actions that were allowing the vice-principle to use his legitimate powers.

He said he helped his student look at things from his father's perspective. The student was having a lot of difficulty at home.

"Understanding authority brought his conflict at school and at home down to nothing," Jones said

He said he taught his student that you have to be willing to help yourself to get others to help you.

Jones said his student chose to transfer to a school not in the area of the Onside Mentor program.

He said he got a call two weeks ago from his former student. "He said he likes the new school, is happy, doing well and likes the teachers."

"I was happy that a 16-year-old student would call to tell me what has happened. I got through to him and made enough of an impression

CARL JONES

that he would call," Jones said.

Although a mentor doesn't have to spend time with his student during the summer, Jones did because he felt "summer was a crucial time in a student's life."

Without a job and with the peer pressure, he would have too much time to get into trouble during the summer.

Jones said, based on his experience, he knows staying in school is very important.

"Life is a game: It starts at birth and ends at death, and there are a million things that will happen.

"The purpose of life is to play the game.

"Education gives you the rules and tools. Without education, you're playing against others who have more tools."

Jones is intent on the Onside Mentor program because of his background.

Born in Toronto in 1957, Jones said he dropped out of school at the beginning of Grade 11 because the most important thing in his life at that time was buying a car.

He said he had a serious conflict with his father, who wanted him to finish school and take over the family business.

"I felt I wasn't in control, that my parents and teachers were in control. Quitting school was something I could do that no one could stop me from doing.

"I wanted to be an adult as fast as possible." So Jones entered the job market.

At the age of 22, Jones broke his neck while working on the oil-rigs in Edmonton, Alta.

After he recovered, he went back to work on the rigs.

"It was the last thing I wanted to do after breaking my neck, but necessity and a lack of skills forced me back into a dangerous job."

Several years later, Jones had a fall while building a gas storage facility in Allenburg, Ont.

"That was it for my labor career," he said.

At that point, Jones asked himself: "What has brought me to this position in life?"

He said it was the first time in his life where he actually admitted to himself that he lacked an education.

"I also realized that if I didn't find a way of making money without using my body, I have no way of making money."

Now, he is at Niagara College in the Educational Resources and Special Needs program, training to become a social service worker.

"I arrived here, and the wheels have been moving ever since."

He said that since he has been at school, he has seen things he never knew existed. He has seen doors of opportunity open that drop-outs don't know exist.

Now he says he can look back and see how one decision, the decision to leave school, drastically changed his life.

He said he believes the decision to return to school will have as dramatic a transformation on his life in a positive way, as the decision to drop-out had in a negative way.

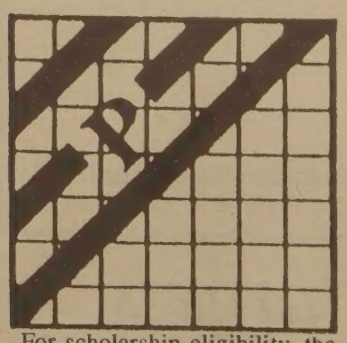
He hopes he can do his part to inform potential drop-outs that school is very important to their future.

Business service offers cash awards

By ARLENE ARCH
Staff Writer

Padgett Business Services of Canada is offering a $500 scholarship to eligible high school seniors who are children of independent business owners.

Because it is harder for small businesses to preserve a profitable operation in order to maintain a quality lifestyle for their family, Padgett Business Services is awarding more than $25,000 throughout Canada and the United States to students who meet the requirements.



For scholarship eligibility, the student must be a dependent of a small business owner who employs fewer than 20 individuals, owns at least 10 per cent of the stock or capital in the business and is active in the day-to-day operations of the organization. The student must also be a graduating high school senior planning to attend post-secondary education.

Applications for the scholarship can be acquired by contacting the Padgett Business Services in your area. The applicants are required to verify their grade point average, test scores, information concerning parents' or guardians' business and submit a written 100-word essay on their education and career plans.

Local winners, who are judged by an independent scholarship committee, will be announced in May at an awards ceremony. The winners are eligible for one international scholarship of $4,000 announced and presented in June. The deadline for all applications is March 1, 1993.

This is the third year that Padgett Business Services is offering the scholarship.

"At least 80 applications are expected this year," says Gerry Lacroix of the Niagara Falls office. Padgett Business Services has been operating for more than 25 years. They are a financial reporting and tax planning service that helps about 18,000 small businesses in North America. For scholarship applications and further information call (416) 374-6622.

Cross-border conference benefits students

By DENNIS FAST
Staff Writer

It's another first for Niagara College.

Niagara is the first college or university to be involved in a program called New Exporters to Border States (NEBS), said Dave Taylor, co-ordinator of International Trade and Marketing Management.

"Niagara was known as the ice-breaker," he said.

International Trade students from Canada listened to speakers from the United States and Canada Customs and Immigration on Dec. 1 and 2 in Buffalo, N.Y. The students were taken on a tour to witness the Customs process and were allowed to sit in the booths and talk to Customs inspectors.

"Once students get out on their work placement, and career after that placement, I'm sure that their insight, gained from the NEBS, will directly result in a return on the consulate's investment," said Taylor.

The NEBS program is offered by the Canadian Consulate General in Buffalo, and until December, was exclusively reserved for business people. The Canadian government in Ottawa had to give approval before the International Trade students could attend. The NEBS meetings were sponsored by the consulate, so students did not have to pay.

Taylor said the program makes people more export-ready to increase Canadian exports by bringing in speakers from international areas of business, finance and distribution.

This type of interaction is beneficial for the students involved in these careers to gain insight and help secure work experience positions, said Taylor. The program helps exporters be more efficient and fulfils the consulate's mandate to help increase exports from Canada.

Taylor said contact with the consulate was through Renee Lazarz. Lazarz, the commercial officer there, is a regular speaker in the Global Networking course in the International Trade program. Taylor said Lazarz was instrumental in bringing the two programs together.

"We're hoping to do it (NEBS) on an on-going basis," said Taylor. "Hopefully, we're going to include more and more of that type of thing into our program."

Taylor said he doesn't know where things currently stand with NEBS or if the two programs will continue to work together.

First Health Care Food class graduates from Niagara

By KAREN KRANJAC
Staff Writer

Graduate students from the Hospitality and Tourism Centre were the first in the Niagara Region to graduate from the Health Care Food Services program late November.

There were 10 graduates who took the class during the evening. The program involves 180 hours of teaching. The celebration for the graduates was held in the Kerrio Room in Niagara Falls. The students operated the event by cooking the food and decorating the restaurant.

The program was designed for students already working in the field of health care and shows them improved techniques to be better qualified.

"The program was developed by Mohawk and now we are using the same program," said Carol Johnston, development officer of the Hospitality and Tourism Centre. "This was the first graduating class of many more."

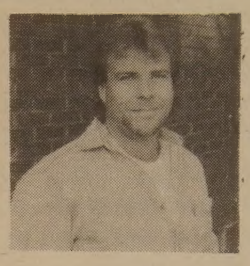
Representatives from the retiring homes design and decide what is taught to the students. It is found to be a creditation that the students need to work in a retirement setting. The program was designed specifically for the health care field so that better food services are provided.

"We work closely with a strong advisory committee which are the clients," said Johnston. "The program is timely and is carefully monitored by the clients and they keep a good handle on the content taught."

Since the techniques of food services are always changing the advisory board decides what should be implemented so that the students are kept up to date.

PERSPECTIVES

Censorship won't stop racist thoughts



By PATRICK ASELSTINE
Staff Writer

Last spring's riot in south central Los Angeles illustrates how much racial tension exists in America. Racism and discrimination are serious worldwide problems.

The problem, if unchecked, could lead to our downfall — or even worse, extinction — as a civilization.

Unfortunately, the laws designed to ensure equality make it difficult to convict a person of perpetrating vengeful words and/or acts of violence toward others.

Politically-correct advocates believe they can solve, or lessen, the problem by censoring written and spoken works. We realize ignorant people can use words to offend and harm others, but the right to speak freely does not automatically include the right to be taken seriously.

The failure of Prohibition to stop people from drinking proved public opinion doesn't change merely because a law is adopted. Attitudes must change through education, debate and subsequent understanding.

Meanwhile, we must protect our freedoms.

Former U.S. president Lyndon Johnson reminded the American people in 1965: "Let no one think for a moment that national debate means national division."

Our society's tolerance and encouragement of freedom of speech has led to the identification and resolution of many problems.

Zechariah Chafee Jr., the late Harvard law professor, once referred to freedom of the press as a "self-righting process...by which, in the long run, truth is to emerge from the clash of opinions, good and bad."

We've already denied many groups of peoples their freedoms through discriminatory actions, but the elimination of basic freedoms, like those of speech and the press, won't address the discrimination problem, only worsen it.

Censorship forces people with radical, unhealthy ideas to take their thoughts underground where they become more dangerous. Prejudices are a serious problem that need to be discussed openly if we hope to eliminate them.

Censorship would amount to admitting a loss of faith in ourselves as an intelligent, compassionate species able to tackle problems head on. Won't we be moving in the wrong direction if we must protect ourselves from one another this much?

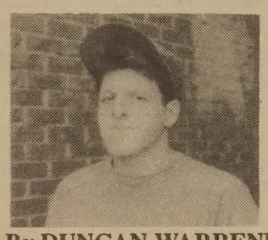
Only through tolerance and co-operation - with more involvement from the citizenry rather than from government and the courts - will we solve difficult global problems concerning the environment, economy and human rights. Censorship, in the form of the politically-correct movement, threatens to further polarize us.

Radical changes in the thoughts and actions of members of every race and group of people - obviously some more than others - must supplant the arbitrary censoring of words as our method of correcting this grave situation.

It's hoped the immense attention will initiate a universal adoption of the belief: we are all the same and deserve to be treated accordingly.

While time is running out, it isn't too late.

Manners overrated



By DUNCAN WARRENER
Staff Writer

It seems pointless that in a time when our country teeters on the brink of economic collapse, people still agonize over which fork to use at the dinner table.

Don't get me wrong, manners have their uses. But, will the world end if you hold your wine glass in an improper manner? For some, the answer is yes.

Everyone could get by nicely by following a few select common sense manners and discarding the rest of them. Besides, manners are merely suggestions anyway.

Closing your mouth while eating is an important personal trait. There is no need to display to the world what you are eating unless somebody asks. Then feel free to show the inquiring person until their heart is content.

It is rude and unsafe to hold a door open for anyone other than yourself. If they have two feet and a heartbeat they can do it themselves. There are so many different groups who either encourage or frown on this practice anyway. What may be politically correct one week may have totally changed by the next.

Saying thank you is also highly encouraged. You would be surprised at what you can get with this simple phrase. Such wonders as your change, a smile, and a "Thank you for shopping at XYZ store" can be yours with a simple thank you.

These are only a few ideas for the betterment of your day. Try and think up some yourself. So next time you burp at the dinner table don't look at it as being rude. It is seen as a compliment else where in the world. Go figure.

Spectabular...

Karmyn Lucescu, second-year fashion merchandising — visual promotions student, presents her project: a pop tab, paper clip dress representing the non-conformist generation of punk rock. The project was researched for a first-year Design Studio Fundamentals course.

Photo by Sheri Goodman

GO TO SCHOOL TILL JUNE!

The College re-structuring proposal is for two 18-week semesters.

September till the third week of January
— 2 weeks off for Christmas
— 9 days off between semesters
February till end of May — 4 days off for Easter

Program of study

Do you agree with two 18 weeks semesters?
Yes _____ No _____

Do you feel this proposal will reduce your chances for finding part/full/summer employment?
Yes _____ No _____

Will the loss of 4 weeks of summer earnings jeopardize your financial status while attending school?
Yes _____ No_____

If Niagara College is re-structured to two 18-week semesters will you transfer to another college?
Yes _____ No _____

How much extra money do you feel it will cost you to attend school an extra 4 weeks?
$ _____

If you have co-op, do you think it will affect you and how will it affect you?
Comments:

What is your major concern about the re-structuring?
Comments:

If you voice your concern you will be heard!
Please drop off your survey in the Student Administrative Council (SAC) office in "After Hours" at the Welland campus.

Careless students become easy targets

By SHERI GOODMAN
Staff Writer

A new model dark blue sports car pulls up outside the Mackenzie building and approaches a first-year early childhood education program student during the first week of school this year.

"You called a cab get in the car," the man said to her.

She was alone and waiting for her ride outside the building.

"I'm sorry you're mistaken, it must have been someone else," she said.

In an assertive voice the man said again, "You called a cab get in the car."

He appeared to be getting out of the car and she ran into the building.

"Unfortunately we didn't get a plate number," said Linda Maidens, the college's building services supervisor.

"If something like that happens to anybody, by all means get a hold of me or the police right away," she said.

Maidens warns students to be wary of anybody who makes that kind of approach, try to get a licence plate number and a description.

"Pay attention to detail and any kind of peculiar situation," she adds.

She also suggests that students waiting for a ride wait inside the building.

Maidens reported the incident to Niagara Regional Police who put more patrols on in the area.

Campus Watch, which started at the college in May 1992, is aimed at promoting crime and drug awareness. It is also aimed at generating support for and participation in crime prevention. It is based on the idea of Neighborhood Watch.

"We want to help people be more aware of what the problems are and to be more aware of their neighbors," Maidens said.

"If there are any strange scenarios out there don't hesitate to call. We are here to assist," she said.

Her extension is 7417 and the office is L6.

FOCUS

Translator enjoys experience in Canada

By HENRY MALUNDA
Staff Writer

Dennis Malone, Niagara College's International education director, picks up a phone in Welland.

He talks to a Chinese student in Taiwan. They arrange to meet at the Canadian Trade Mission in Taipei where Malone has a previous engagement.

On arrival in Taipei, the student on the phone is waiting for him in the lobby. They recognize each other's voices, and soon, information brochures change hands. A month later, the student knocks at Malone's office door in Welland. She is a Niagara College student.

"This is just one of the awkward processes in which we find ourselves in dealing with prospective overseas students," said Malone.

In order to facilitate the language communication processes with international students, the department has engaged a Chinese student, Youjia Wu, who is doing a program in international trade.

"My attachment to the department is part of my work experience for the program I'm following at the college," said Wu. He is assisting the department with program marketing for international students.

"I translate the college's promotional materials into Chinese for students in Hong Kong, Taiwan and China," he said, his eyes scanning the Apple Macintosh computer on his borrowed working table.

Wu, 30, and fluent in English, originally came to the college in 1990 through the institutional linkage project with Yueyang University in China. Having decided to remain in Canada, Brock University hired him to teach English-as-a-second-language course to international students before joining Niagara College in the summer of 1991 for a similar engagement. He decided to enrol in the international trade program last year.

'I've always enjoyed my experiences in Canada...'
- Wu

"I've been working as interpreter or as translator with a lot of trade delegations, and education organizations from China. Sometimes I find it difficult to understand the terminologies they're using; to put them in business terms. That's why I'm taking this international trade program," he said. "It gives me a lot of exposure and a lot of knowledge in the business world."

Married, with a 20-month-old daughter, Wu does not contemplate going back to live in China after his studies, only on working engagements.

"There's always a chance of going back home on business. It'd be interesting for me to work for a company in Canada dealing with an institution in China like this (Niagara-Yueyang University) project; if there are training seminars conducted in China, I could go with the team and act as translator or interpreter, or I could go over and teach myself, but there would have to be a Canadian presence."

Wu does not hesitate to point out why he has now obtained landed immigrant status in Canada.

"I've always enjoyed my experiences in Canada, whether as a student or as a faculty assistant," he said with a smile. "I find the Canadian people very welcome. When it comes to personal development, there's lots of opportunities in Canada."

But like all other overseas students in Canada, Wu has had to compromise with a transition of cultural shock.

"As an international student, you tend to experience cultural shock in the beginning, not being familiar with the language and culture: once you get familiar, life is very rewarding and enjoyable."

According to Malone, Wu's services are a great facility to the language communication problems which normally exist with most foreign students.

His services include translating faxes, information brochures and any other promotional materials as well as assisting Chinese students communicate their adjustment problems to the department.

Costa Rican program offers global perspective

By HENRY MALUNDA
Staff Writer

Participants will have to contribute $2,500 to attend a seminar program on the *Role of Scientists in Development* at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Summer Institute in Costa Rica, said Dennis Malone, international education director. The program, funded by IDRC, is scheduled to operate from July 27 to Aug. 8 with a pre-departure briefing in Ottawa July 25 and 26.

"IDRC will run the whole program — provide facilities, but interested individuals will have to pay the rest of the expenses," Malone said.

The participation fee for the program covers full return air fare, accommodation, meals, ground transportation in Costa Rica and documentation.

The IDRC is a federal Crown corporation which has been funding research undertaken by scientists in developing countries over the past 20 years. During this time, the organization has developed a unique network of contacts with scientists, thinkers and innovators in developing countries.

The Summer Institute is aimed at teachers, curriculum advisers and planners who are interested in promoting a global perspective, educators in non-governmental organizations, and communication specialists.

The institute operates in both English and French, Canada's two official languages.

'You want people to have a sense of commitment...'

Malone said he doubted the college would fund individuals interested in the project.

"It's not a project we're managing," he said. "It's outside of the college and it's unlikely we'd support it financially."

According to information provided by IDRC on the program, the institute offers an indepth look at the culture and environment of Costa Rica; an encounter with multi-disciplinary teams working on some of the complex and challenging problems facing communities in the developing world; a most rewarding experience on both the personal and intellectual level; a unique opportunity to exchange work experiences with teachers from throughout Canada.

The pre-departure briefing in Ottawa will also give an opportunity to meet IDRC's program officers and scientists from developing countries.

The program's itinerary includes a visit to community-based multidisciplinary research projects, interaction with scientists and community groups, as well as a visit to the capital of San José, the Central Valley, the frontier regions of Rio Frio and Talamanca (the Atlantic coast), and Orotina (the Pacific coast).

"You want people to have a sense of commitment to that kind of activity," Malone said, "and for people to understand that it's not an obligation but that they'd be making a contribution to Third World development."

Applications must be submitted through the international education department no later than Feb. 15.

Teaching opportunities spark little interest

By HENRY MALUNDA
Staff Writer

An offer announced by the international education department last November for professional development teaching opportunities at the College of Applied Arts, Science and Technology (CAST) in Kingston, Jamaica, has received no serious inquiries, said Dennis Malone, the college's international education director and coordinator of international professional exchange programs.

The project, which has been going on for some time, is sponsored by the International Centre and Human Resources Department of George Brown College in Toronto.

"What I don't know is whether anyone applied directly to the George Brown College — which is possible," Malone said.

The offer was extended to all Ontario colleges for the 1993-94 academic year.

Malone attributed the lack of interest to a number of factors including social and geographical considerations.

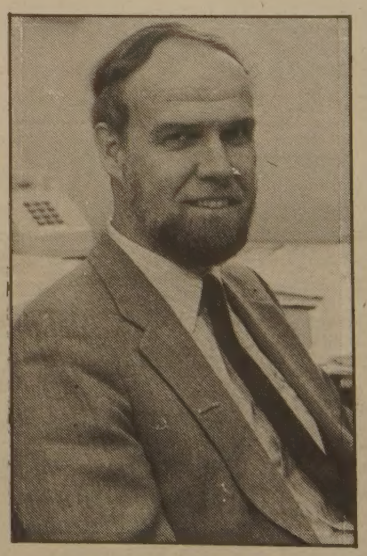
"The obvious challenge is for people with families," he said. "Such offers are more attractive to single people, or older couples who are no longer living with their children."

He also identified the extreme weather disparity between Canada and the Caribbean Islands as a possible contributing factor.

Jamaica has an average temperature of 30 degrees Celsius (90 degrees Fahrenheit).

"People have to be really interested because of the hot weather conditions there," he said.

The 3,000-student capacity CAST provides post-secondary polytechnic-type of education in Jamaica and other English-speaking countries on the Caribbean Islands. Its seven departments provide professional development opportunities in pharmacology, chemical



DENNIS MALONE

engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, accounting and finance, business administration, marketing, computer programming, building sciences and land management, and technical teacher education in electrical, mechanical and construction technology.

The incumbents are expected to lecture, conduct student assessments, contribute to course assessment and development, and form and maintain industrial linkages.

Among the many anticipated personal gains from the program are experience in international post-secondary education, comparative education, industrial or business exposure in a developing country, and contribution to Third World development.

Malone was hesitant to cite such personal financial contribution as airfare, health insurance and study costs as affecting the low applicant interest.

"The staff would be on sabbatical leave and receive 70 per cent of their salary," he said. "In addition, they'd receive a $200 monthly allowance from CAST."

Conditions of the program include those as specified by professional development leave policies and the collective agreement; approval of individual resumes by the president of CAST; the $200 monthly allowance and accommodation provided by CAST; orientation to Jamaica, Jamaican education system and CAST, by CAST staff, and the arrangement of professional visits by CAST.

The international education department receives requests from all over the world for professional exchange programs.

'The obvious challenge is for people with families.' - Malone

"I was on the (telephone) line to Dhubai in the United Arab Emirates last Wednesday, who have requested for faculty exchanges," said Malone.

"In this case, there'd be no problem because this is a very wealthy country and they'd provide (financing for) all expenses."

ENTERTAINMENT

CD sale

By JACQUIE BUTLER
Staff Writer

Attention all music lovers!

Campus Radio-Niagara College is holding a "midwinter cleanout sale" in the Tecumseh foyer Tuesday, Feb. 9, says Danny Sullivan, CRNC's new promotions director.

CDs from the station's archives are being sold, and selection is wide and cheap. Sullivan says all CDs will be priced under $8.

Some artists include Bruce Cockburn and Shabba Ranks. There are several industry samplers featuring various artists. "There's something for everyone," says Bruce Gilbert, production manager.

Everyone who purchases a CD receives an entry form to qualify for an on-air draw, done by the CRNC disc jockey who will be broadcasting live from the sale outside the library 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The draw is for "a special pair of tickets," says Sullivan, who declined to elaborate.

The station's vinyl catalogue is also for sale. Selected albums and singles are available for collectors.

Bob Lambert

After Hours performer draws large crowd

By TROY CLARKE
Staff Writer

If Bob Lambert's performance at After Hours last week was any indication, the 70s are coming back with force.

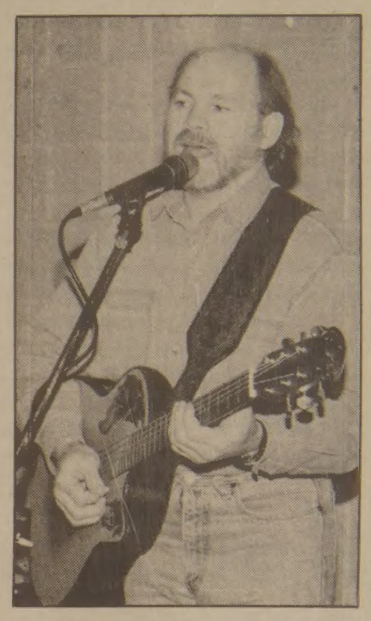
About 200 students clapped and screamed, and some even danced, as Lambert played a 1 1/2-hour set featuring the music of Harry Chapin, Jim Croce, Billy Joel and many other songwriting greats of the 70's.

In fact, the Student Administrative Council was so impressed it voted, on the spot, to pay Lambert an extra, undetermined amount to perform longer.

Lambert, who has toured with The Everly Brothers, Blue Rodeo, The Beach Boys, Air Supply, Chris Deburgh and Dionne Warwick, is on a cross country tour and has an album, his fourth, coming out soon. The tour will eventually bring him to his adopted home town of Halifax, N.S.

SAC president Dale Deloughery said the show was an "awesome success."

"As a matter of fact, we even had him play an extra hour," Deloughery said, adding Lambert is going to send SAC the bill.



Students clap and cheer in After Hours while Nova Scotia's Bob Lambert takes them on a journey through some of the great songs of the 1970s.

Photos by Troy Clarke

After Hours manager Donna Flutur, who thought the crowd responded "really, really well," said Lambert is "not cheap but he's worth it."

Flutur said she moved the time of afternoon performances from 3 p.m. to 1 p.m. to draw a larger crowd, which has "really made an improvement in crowd attendance this year."

Flutur said she was so impressed with the turnout she is planning to have the Newfoundland native back sometime in March.

Niagara College technician jams in band

Niagara College's Jerry Salfi (bottom left) plays bass guitar in the band Chaser. Other members from top left are Scott Harris on drums, Randy Scott on keyboard and Brian Collins on guitar.

Photo by Kim Morphew

By KIM MORPHEW
Staff Writer

Flickering candlelight dots the large dark room. Faces, laughing and joking, are visible at the bar. In the distance a booming voice calls out for a friend. The constant clicking of pool cues can be heard.

The band, Chaser, starts to settle into their accustomed spots, after all they have been together for about six years. Jerry Salfi, a Niagara College video production technologist, takes the microphone and his bass guitar. So starts another night of entertainment.

"It's a hobby; we don't get rich by any means," says Salfi in a friendly tone, on one of the few breaks the four-man-band takes during the evening. "As a band we're just trying to do things we enjoy."

Guitar, drums, keyboard and bass — that and a lot of dedication is all it took to get the band where it is today.

Randy Scott, a large man with dark hair and a moustache, is a "music teacher and instrument builder." He plays keyboard for Chaser.

A smaller, somewhat slight man with intense eyes Brian Collins plays guitar for the band. By day he works at the St. Catharines' daily newspaper The Standard, as the Spectrum section editor.

Thorold public school teacher Scott Harris sports a reddish goatee and an infectious laugh. For the band he plays drums.

Joining talents six years ago, the band has enjoyed nominal success working 30 to 35 weekends a year. Although none of the group are searching for a large scale record deal they agree they wouldn't turn it down if it were offered.

The song mix has grown over the six years. Their repertoire includes about 130 songs. Depending on where they are the group can play anything from country to easy listening to rock.

The Cairn Croft hotel lounge, in Niagara Falls, Ont., was the setting for the band's latest performance. The crowd was made up of 20- to 50-year-olds. With such an age range of listeners the band has to know how to play to a varied audience.

"We're pretty mellow and commercial at this place, it depends where we are," said Collins.

The versatile group has played from the Niagara Peninsula to Hamilton. They even performed on a Caribbean cruise ship — once.

The band tries to keep their "regular jobs" out of the night scene. "It's working so far," said Salfi. The musical experience in the band goes far beyond what the group has done together. "Between the four guys we have about 100 years experience," Salfi said, whose own dates back to 1965.

"It's one of those things where you just get it in your blood," Salfi said.

Book? Knott!

By ROGER STROOP
Staff Writer

Some books stay on your mind for a long time. Robert Davies Publishing's Everything Men Know About Women, written by Knott Mutch, definitely fits that description.

The book, part of the Truly Basic Books series, lives up to its title, as there wasn't a single thing I didn't know about the female of the human species in it.

Comment

Beyond that, the book presents its information in a concise fashion making interesting reading indeed. Readers will be amazed by Mutch's uncanny ability to sum up his subject in the most economical fashion possible.

This book, retailing at $2.99, should be available in local bookstores now. Pick it up. It will be a reading experience you'll remember for a while.

Reporter's Note: Should you find a copy with actual type in it, phone immediately.

Life's a beach!

The Niagara College Early Childhood Centre chased away the mid-winter blues by having Beach Day last Friday. Included in the festivities was an old fishing hole that Mathew L. enjoyed, (left). Of course, what is a day at the beach without water fun as Alicia S., Cooper R., and Jessica Q., (in foreground) discovered with some of their friends.

Photos by Kimberly Sheppard

Students query Schleich over 36-week year

By TANYA HVILIVITZKY
Staff Writer

Niagara College is not the only institution facing grim times — hospitals and other colleges are in the same position.

And because the province's trough of money is no longer there, Niagara has to change the way it does business, says David Schleich, vice-president academics.

On Tuesday, students at an open forum in the Hamilton Room voiced their concerns to Schleich and Vice-president of Student Life Carol Boettcher. The question from many students was "why" is this restructuring necessary, isn't there any other way?

The alternatives are limited, said Schleich. "When the funding drops, the only way you can make ends meet is to cut programming, either lop off the programs that don't contribute enough money to college overhead or you reduce hours in a program."

Colleges had anticipated a two per cent increase in operating grants from the province for this year and two per cent next year. Instead, they've had to settle for a zero per cent increase in both years.

"At the same time this is occurring, our costs are going through the roof — we don't have the money to pay the bills," he said.

"We have $2.5 million worth of red ink at Niagara and more coming," he said.

"So that's what precipitates the pressure to change," he said. "...We have a four-year plan to eliminate the deficit.

Many students wanted to know how the college will save enough money to reduce the deficit.

The savings will occur from the reduction of some part-time teachers, although he couldn't indicate how many. Under the collective agreement for full-time faculty, teachers are paid for 12 months and can work up to 36 weeks a year.

Schleich said the alternatives could include abandoning the restructing policy, therefore cutting courses and program hours, opting for different versions of a 36-week year or change how courses are delivered.

Marks for meals

By KAREN KRANJAC
Staff Writer

The Chef de Cuisine program has recently undergone extensive restructuring to its examination procedures at the Hospitality Tourism Centre in Niagara Falls, Ont.

Three exams are administered each of which is independently graded by the examiners. Previously, the students had two final exams, the grades from which had to total a minimum of 70 per cent.

The students are required to write a four-hour exam dealing in theory and must attain an average of 70 per cent to proceed to the next exam.

The theoretical-practical exam follows and the students are required to achieve a 70 per cent in this area of testing which is six hours in length. These two have been separated to be a stand-alone unit with its own passing mark. This part includes testing in writing and costing the recipes and writing the requisitions and the work plan.

Following the written exams is a practical exam which is 10 hours and a 70 per cent is the passing grade. The mark is based on the students' ability to complete a skills package and cooking a four-course meal, four portions menu designed by the candidate, within the specified time period. The students are required to make bread, appetizers and deserts. The program is, in total, 96 hours.

"It's not fair if you can't get 70 per cent in each section and then get recognition in the Chef de Cuisine program," said Stanley West, coordinator Culinary program. "The problem before was if you were strong in one area it would carry you through."

Each area is now graded separately because the chefs are good in certain areas but may not be good in all areas and the changes to the program eliminate any cumulative average, said West.

This program is available to those who have a journeyman cook certificate or equivalent and eight years of industry experience including a minimum of two years as a chef or sous chef. An added change to candidate selection is a valid certificate of qualification.

SPORTS

Men's hockey Knights

3-3 tie with Conestoga 'best effort of the year'

By LLOYD ABBS
Staff Writer

The Niagara College men's hockey team played what head coach Fred Bassi said was their "best effort of the year" Saturday night, managing a 3-3 tie with the Conestoga College Condors of Kitchener.

The Knights, who managed the tie despite two late goals by Conestoga, received excellent support from starting goalie Dan Yakubowski, who made several key saves with the glove to keep the game close while stopping 35 of 38 shots.

DAN YAKUBOWSKI

"I'm happy with the way I played tonight, and I'm happy for the team," Yakubowski said.

"Fortunately, my glove was on because Conestoga is a good team. They came out flying in the third period. Their coach must have made a good speech."

Coach Bassi said he was also happy with his team's performance.

"They played like men tonight. You gotta feel good when you're the last place team and you only allow three goals to Conestoga who is playing for first."

Saturday's game was a rough one as tempers flared in the third period. Halfway through the period, Knights' assistant captain Pat Skuta dropped the gloves with Condors' forward Jamie Parsons. Skuta landed several shots sending Parsons packing to the dressing room with a bloody face. With the score 3-3, Knights defenceman Steve Cote tangled with Conestoga's Stu Schneider. Cote also got the better of his opponent.

"We've played these guys all year and tonight they were running our goalie," said Cote. "Tonight's a good sign. The guys are coming together and sticking up for each other. The tie tonight is a boost. It gives us some confidence and it's a lot easier to play with that."

Conestoga opened the scoring in the first on forward Darrin Kinneau's goal. Niagara replied with two goals by captain Dale Zimmerman in the second and took a 2-1 lead to the dressing room after two periods. A problem with the Zamboni delayed the third period but once under way, Andrew Clark put the Knights up by two, scoring at the 1:48 mark of the third. A late rally by Conestoga resulting in two goals in a 2:59 span to make the score 3-3.

Conestoga forward Brian Park, who scored the tying goal with 3:11 left, had some praise for his opponents.

"We had a lot of great opportunities to score but their goalie stoned us and they picked up momentum from that. I think our team is a little disappointed with the tie but I think we showed a little character to come back and salvage a point on the road. Niagara played a solid game and you know, their record doesn't show them any justice because they're a good team."

With the tie, the Knights are still winless at 0-8-2, but remain in playoff contention with six games left in the season.

The Knights' next game is tomorrow against St. Lawrence College of Brockville at the Welland Arena. Game time is 8 p.m.

Conestoga Condors' defenceman Kevin Warner (10) fires the puck as Knights goalie Dan Yakubowski comes out to cut down the angle. Condors' forward Stu Schneider waits for a rebound.

Photo by Lloyd Abbs

Basketballers beat Lambton

By RICK KINZEL
Staff Writer

Niagara College's men's basketball team travelled to Sarnia last Friday and came home with a win against Lambton College.

Rick Sinclair led the Knights with 23 points in the 91-65 victory. Merv Wrighton had 16 points, Frank Keltos had 13 points and Paul Grummett finished with 12 points.

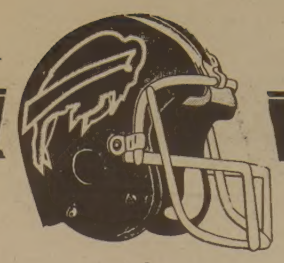
The win improves Niagara's league record to 5-2 and their overall record to 10 wins and four losses.

Nia 91 - Lam 65

The third place Knights can move up in the standings by winning two big road games this weekend. They travel to Peterborough tonight to play Sir Sandford Fleming and then move on to Belleville to take on second place Loyalist, Saturday at 2 p.m.

Cambrian College in Sudbury holds the first place spot with an 8-1 record. Loyalist holds the second spot with a 7-1 record.

The Knights' next home game is Friday Feb. 5 against first place Cambrian College at the Welland campus at 7 p.m.



SPORTS

'America's Team' to upend Bills and relive seventies

By DENNIS FAST
Staff Writer

They're back!

The Dallas Cowboys have returned to the greatness that once earned them the nickname "America's Team".

The Cowboys' trip to Sunday's Super Bowl will be a record sixth. Their last trip came in 1978 when they lost to the Pittsburgh Steelers, 35-31. This Dallas team may not have the experience of the team of the '70s, but they are very much alike. In fact, this team could be the best Dallas team ever.

In the '70s, Tom Landry coached the Cowboys with a professional, dignified and proper style. He was never seen wearing anything but a suit and a dressy hat. Coach Jimmy Johnson has the same type of professional dignity and he too is very proper. He is never seen with a hair out of place.

Besides the coaches, the offences of the two teams are very similar. If one is better, it has to be the '92 Cowboys.

Troy Aikman may not yet be the passer Roger Staubach was, but Aikman is the same type of strong-armed, stay-in-the-pocket quarterback as Staubach.

Emmitt Smith is as quick and even a more powerful runner than the great Tony Dorsett while Michael Irvin and Alvin Harper resemble the quick, tough receivers Drew Pearson and Tony Hill from the '70s. Irvin and Harper are like the older duo in some respects, like wearing the same numbers, but the two current receivers are faster and stronger.

Comparing the two offensive lines is like comparing Arnold Schwarzenegger to Pee Wee Herman. Centre Mark Stepnoski is the smallest Dallas lineman at 270 pounds, and is bigger than the biggest lineman on the Dallas team of the '70s.

Dallas had the best defence in football in 1992, which is remarkable considering no player on the defence was selected to the Pro Bowl. This "no-name" defence is led by Charles Haley and future star Russell Maryland, but as of yet there are no big name stars like Ed "Too Tall" Jones or Randy White.

The Cowboys gained a measure of revenge against San Fransisco two Sundays ago. The 49ers started their dynasty when they beat the Cowboys in the playoffs in 1981. This defeat also began the downfall of the Cowboys. Now the Cowboys could be turning the tables on the 49ers.

This Dallas team could exact revenge on numerous NFL teams in the next several years. They could make up for the three Super Bowls the Cowboys lost in the '70s.

In just three years, the Cowboys have gone from a 1-15 team, to a team with the second-best record in the NFL at 13-3. The team's amazing turnaround can be directly attributed to the work of Jimmy Johnson and owner Jerry Jones. These two men have used trades, free agency, draft picks and discarded players from other teams to build a team which could become a dynasty. With an average age of 26, the Cowboys are the youngest team in the NFL. They are already as good as the Cowboys of the '70s and they could become one of the best teams of all-time.

Super Bowl not worthy of front page coverage

By JENNIFER BARR
Staff Writer

The Super Bowl is making headline news. I agree that football is the centre of many people's lives at this time of year, but how can it receive higher priority over the bombing of Iraq, the starving people in Somalia and the murders happening every day in our community?

These tragedies affect so many people and yet the Super Bowl still received headline news on news stations and newspapers in Buffalo, N. Y. over the weekend. It just doesn't seem right to let worldwide tragedies play second fiddle to a football game. I can only assume that from now until Sunday the Super Bowl will be featured on the front page of most newspaper stands across the country.

When I turn on the news, I can't help but think that the news stations have their priorities wrong. Is there a good time to talk about the upcoming Super Bowl between the Buffalo Bills and Dallas Cowboys? I would suggest the best place would be on the sports pages or during the sports portion of the news.

The Super Bowl is an important game and should receive sufficient coverage, however, there are more important things happening in the world today that need to be given headline treatment.

Pressure too much for undeserving Bills

By LLOYD ABBS
Staff Writer

The Buffalo Bills have yet another chance to lose the Super Bowl.

For the last two years the National Football League's Buffalo Bills team has entered the playoffs as would-be champions. Each year they've had the carpet pulled leaving their fans hungering for the ultimate success.

What's the matter with the Bills? Is it simply bad luck? Or maybe it's that the players don't know how to respond in key situations. I think the most likely scenario is the Buffalo Bills never deserved to be in any of the Super Bowls. They can't play under pressure, without choking. A championship team needs all eight cylinders firing. The Bills may have eight cylinders but yet they've never been operational at the same time. Sometimes I think the Bills just forgot how to play the game.

Maybe it's fate. Maybe there is some reason behind the Bills' lack of success in the Super Bowl. Maybe it's because I know and the Bills know, the fans of Buffalo don't deserve a championship. Big deal, so they make noise at a game. Big deal, they party in the streets for four days after a win. Big deal, Big deal, Big deal. Cleveland Brown fans do that all the time.

Bills fan are spoiled. They think because they've lived through the tough years when, come the end of the season, the Bills were nowhere to be seen, that they deserve something now. Sports doesn't work that way my friends.

Bills fans whine and cry after every loss. They jump all over the players and management and demand the head of whoever happens to be the scapegoat that week. It's really hypocritical.

A friend of mine once told me, "A wise man bets the farm on the Raiders." It's really too bad the Bills made it to the Super Bowl because a Dallas Cowboy- L.A Raiders championship would probably be a better game.

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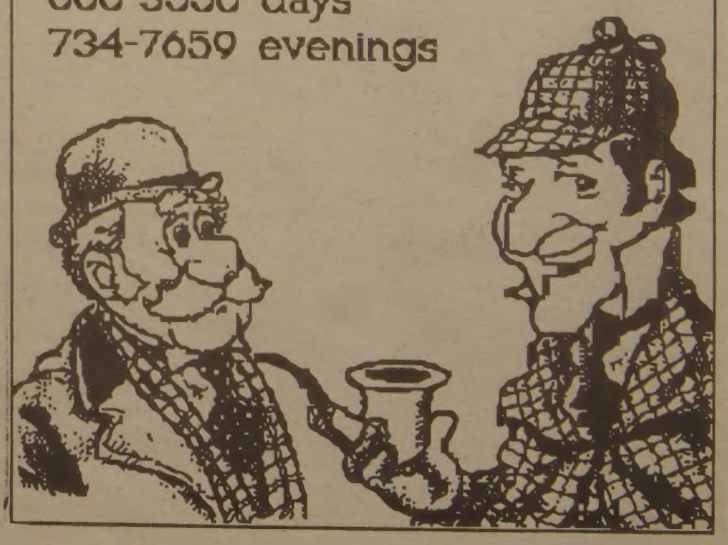


'Toothless tiger' important to college

By TROY CLARKE
Staff Writer

The Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario (ACAATO) is an important part of the college system, says Bernard Baril, chairman of the Niagara College Board of Governors.

Baril, responding to vice-chair Otto Urbanovics' statement that the association was a "toothless tiger," said he can't speak highly enough of the association.

"Through ACAATO, representatives from all Ontario colleges have a chance to get together to exchange views and ideas."

Baril said Niagara College pays between $17,000 and $20,000 per year to the association which is "a very low fee for a very efficient, very important job."

"In a $50-million budget we're talking less than $20,000," he said.

The association, formed in 1972, through inter-college programs and professional development opportunities, is devoted to enhancing college education and training program delivery in Ontario.

The association was instrumental in securing a central application system in which applicants to all 23 Ontario colleges apply to a center in Guelph.

Baril, meanwhile, said much of the association's work is performed by college people, who sit on a number of standing committees and task forces.

College President John Saso is the western region representative on the Council of Presidents' Executive Committee, and vice-president academic David Schleich sits on the Instructions/Programs Co-ordinating Committee. Many other representatives from Niagara College sit on a number of other ACAATO committees.

Baril said the association has three people on staff, therefore it's only effective to the extent the people of the colleges are willing to make it.

Budget calls for cleaning cutbacks

By SHERI GOODMAN
Staff Writer

Students who eat and drink in class can no longer do so. No eating, no drinking and no smoking signs have always been posted in the classrooms, but now the policy is being enforced by teachers because of cutbacks in contract cleaning.

"In order to meet the figures that we're supposed to come in with we have to cutback. There are no luxuries at this point," said Linda Maidens, building services supervisor. "Everybody has to pitch in a little bit."

These cutbacks are in effect until the end of the fiscal year, March 31, when it will be reassessed.

"We're in a bind, but things will get better," Maidens said.

Commercial Cleaners of St. Catharines clean every other night at the college. So garbage that is left in a room will stay there until the cleaners come in.

Because of the cutbacks in cleaning, the business had to lay off a couple workers, said Maidens.

There were no cutbacks in the dental, day care and hospitality, and tourism and food areas. The only cutback in the cafeteria was bringing a worker in two hours later.

"We felt that cutting back in those areas would be very detrimental," Maidens said.

The reductions are in effect because of budget restraints.

"Right now we're in a situation where we're robbing Peter to pay Paul and we're trying to do the best we can with the limited funds the government has given us," Maidens said.

Receipts = points = aid for epileptics

By ROGER STROOP
Staff Writer

A first-year Education Resource Special Needs student is co-ordinating Niagara College's contribution to Epilepsy Niagara's effort in CJRN-Radio's Community Club Awards program.

Cindy Whiteman is collecting receipts from area businesses such as Food Terminal. These receipts will be turned in for points toward weekly cash awards and final prizes in April.

"The more we can collect, the more money we can get," Whiteman said.

Greessy Caron, Epilepsy Niagara founder, said the money raised will go towards the purchase of dogs for epileptics. The dogs can sense when a person is having a seizure before it happens and are trained to watch and protect the person during the seizure, he said.

A list of receipts that can be turned over for points will soon be posted at the college, Whiteman said. Those wishing to help the effort can bring their receipts to room S103 at the Welland campus.

Two Days of Canada extended

By JENNIFER HERR
Staff Writer

Two Days of Canada, a yearly symposium held at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ont., has become a 2 1/2-day event due to increased interest and participation.

The multi-disciplinary conference, to be held Feb. 3, 4, and 5, will take place in the Senate Chamber in the Mackenzie-Chown complex at Brock. The title of the seminar series is Women's Lives, Canadian Life, and is presented by the Canadian Studies program.

Under discussion will be a vast array of subjects, including reproductive technologies, motherhood, women at play, women in physical education, women in literature and the media, and grass-roots feminism. Speakers are coming in from other universities, as well as from non-academic settings.

Further information regarding the sessions may be found at Brock University, or by contacting Joan Nicks (ext. 4278) or Nick Baxter-Moore (ext. 4145) at (416) 688-5550.

Regional council votes to continue talks

Continued from page 1.

"We need to keep the people (students) coming, not only for their benefit but also for our benefit," he said.

Councillor Neal Schoen of Port Colborne agreed with the decision to defer the discussion but added that the college could do more to help with the cost.

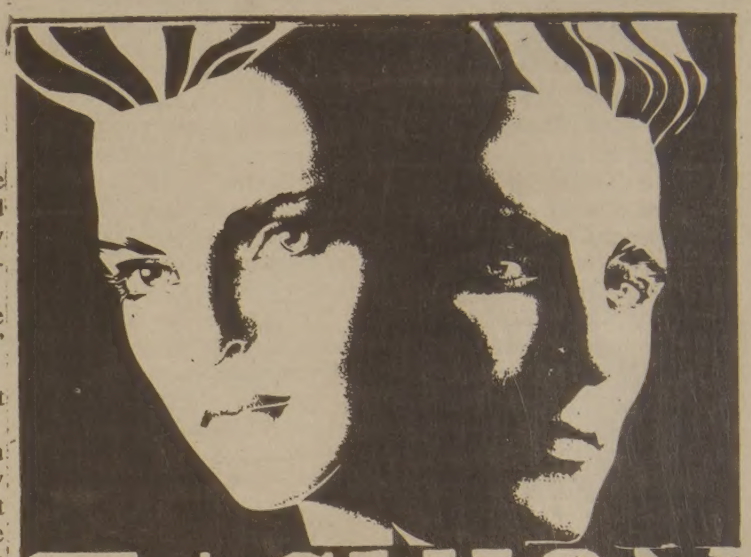
"It seems the college is not sharing our cost," he said. "They're not taking the risk with us."

'They're not taking the risk with us'

Many students must have on-the-job training before they can graduate.

As of late September, changes to the Workers' Compensation Act had made the Region liable for the compensation costs of any post-secondary school students injured while performing an unpaid work placement at a regional facility.

The council voted unanimously in favor of continuing talks with college officials at the Feb. 4 Regional Council meeting.



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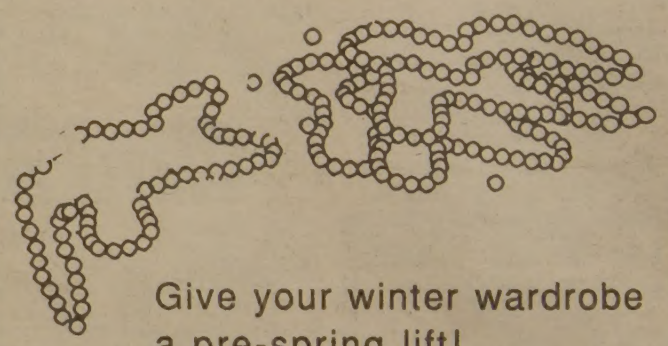

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